

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite a display means for displaying, in a single window on a display screen, a playback-time information display area, a first image display area, and a second image display area. In addition, claim 5 has been amended to more clearly recite displaying, in a single window on a display screen, a playback-time information display area, a first image display area, and a second image display area. See Fig. 8 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification at pages 17-21, for example.

Claim 5 has also been amended to clarify the recitation of detecting that an item of still image data is selected, detecting an instruction to insert the selected item of still image data, detecting a position at which the selected item of still image data is inserted, and calculating a playback-time position, based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, pages 21-28. See also, for example, Figs. 1 and 2.

The claims have also been amended to make some additional minor clarifying amendments.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,334,025 ("Yamagami"), USP 6,658,527 ("Hiroyasu") and US 2002/0033889 ("Miyazaki"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

It is respectfully submitted that Yamagami at best discloses that image files, audio files and text files may be linked to each other (column 12, lines 13-20), that a list of recorded files can be displayed in a manner that indicates whether audio, text or image data is linked thereto Fig. 5 and column 10, lines 41-65), and that the displayed files can be selected (e.g., bottom of column 10 and top of column 11).

Indeed, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Yamagami does not disclose "using playback times, positions, or display areas or using a second image data display." For this reason, the Examiner has cited Miyazaki as disclosing associating an image and a music playback time, and the Examiner has cited Hiroyasu as disclosing a playback time information display area.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that although Fig. 16 of Miyazaki was cited by the Examiner as disclosing a second display area as recited in claims 1 and 5, this reference in face merely discloses selecting images at the bottom of Fig. 16. It is respectfully submitted that there is no reason to suggest that the screen illustrated at the bottom of Fig. 16 of Miyazaki would be combined in a same screen with the display illustrated in Fig. 5 of Yamagami.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a logical combination of Miyazaki with Yamagami would not result in a second image display area as recited in claims 1 and 5 being displayed on a same screen as a first image display area and a playback-time information display area as recited in claims 1 and 5.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that while Hiroyasu discloses a picture-sync area A14 and a picture display area A18 in Fig. 17, thereof, Hiroyasu does not disclose displaying, on a same screen with a first image display area and a playback-time information display area, a second image display area for displaying still image data which is not linked with any audio data.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even considered in combination, Yamagami, Miyazaki and Hiroyasu do not disclose, teach or suggest the display means recited in amended

independent claim 1 or the display function recited in amended independent claim 5.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the cited references, even if considered in combination, clearly cannot disclose, teach or suggest insertion means for selecting a desired item of still image data from among the still image data which is not linked with any audio data, displayed in the second image display area, and inserting the selected item of still image data in one of the first image display area and the playback-time information display area, as recited in amended independent claim 1. And it is respectfully submitted that the cited references, even if considered in combination, clearly cannot disclose, teach or suggest the functions recited in amended independent claim 5 of: detecting that an item of still image data is selected from among the still image data which is not linked with any audio data, displayed in the second image display area; detecting an instruction to insert the selected item of still image data in one of the first image display area and the playback-time information display area; detecting a position at which the selected item of still image data is inserted in said one of the first image display area and the playback-time information display area in which the selected item of still image data is inserted; and calculating a play-back time

position of the selected audio data that corresponds to the detected position.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 5, and claims 2-4 and 6-8 depending from claim 1, all clearly patentably distinguish over Yamagami, Hiroyasu and Miyazaki, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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